Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method <u>for </u>classifying electronic mail ~~into multiple directories~~ based upon ~~their spaminess~~ <u>likelihood of spam content of said electronic mail,</u> <u>the method </u>comprising the steps of:

     providing ~~an Inbox directory and~~ ~~two or more~~ <u>at least three</u> ~~spam~~ <u>electronic mail</u> directories, each <u>electronic mail directory being </u>assigned a range of ~~spaminess~~ <u>likelihood of spam content, said range being between no-likelihood-of-spam-content to very-high-likelihood-of- spam-content</u>;

     grading ~~the e-mail~~ <u>incoming electronic mail</u> for ~~spaminess~~ <u>likelihood of spam content, the grading based on pre-defined criteria provided by a user</u>; and

     assigning the ~~e-mail~~ <u>incoming electronic mail</u> into one or more of the <u>electronic mail</u> directories whose assigned ranges of ~~spaminess~~ <u>likelihood of spam content</u> ~~encompasses~~ <u>encompass</u> the ~~spaminess~~ <u>likelihood of spam content</u> grade of the incoming ~~e-mail~~ <u>electronic mail</u>.

2. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the ~~spaminess~~ <u>likelihood of spam content</u> ranges assigned to at least two of the directories overlap such that an ~~e-mail~~ <u>electronic mail</u> whose grade is encompassed within the overlap is ~~contained in~~ <u>assigned to </u>both of such directories.

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3. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 2, further comprising presenting the user with an indication that the ~~email~~ incoming electronic mail has been placed in more than one directory.

4. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 2, further comprising prompting the user to take an action on the ~~email~~ incoming electronic mail that has been placed in more than one directory.

5. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the action comprises voting on the ~~spaminess~~ likelihood of spam content of the incoming ~~email~~ electronic mail.

6. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 further comprising receiving new information on user behavior and re-grading ~~email~~ the electronic mail based on the new information.

7. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 6 further comprising relocating ~~email~~ electronic mail from one directory to another based on the re-grading.

8. (Currently amended) A mail system comprising in combination:

a grader that analyses an incoming e-mail and assigns a grade to the incoming e-mail; and ~~an Inbox directory and two or more spam~~ at least three e-mail directories, each assigned a range of ~~spaminess~~ likelihood of spam content, said range being between no-likelihood-of-spam-content to very-high-likelihood-of-spam-content; the e-mail directories respectively containing

the incoming e-mail whose ~~spaminess~~ likelihood of spam content grade is encompassed within the ~~spaminess~~ likelihood of spam content range assigned to each of the ~~directory~~ directories.

9. (Currently amended) The mail system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the ~~spaminess~~ likelihood of spam content ranges assigned to at least two of the directories overlap such that an incoming e-mail whose grade is encompassed within the overlap is contained in both of such directories.

10. (Currently amended) A computer system including a processor for processing incoming mail, the system ~~including an Inbox directory and a plurality of spam~~ comprising:

at least three incoming mail directories into which said incoming mail is assigned ~~processed~~, each said ~~spam~~ incoming mail directory being assigned a range of ~~spaminess~~ likelihood of spam content into which the incoming mail ~~e-mail for spaminess~~ likelihood of ~~spam content~~ is delivered according to the respective assigned ranges of ~~spaminess~~ likelihood of spam content.

11. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium comprising program instructions for:
providing ~~an Inbox directory and two or more spam~~ at least three electronic mail directories, each assigned a range of ~~spaminess likelihood of spam content~~;

grading ~~the~~ incoming e-mail for ~~spaminess~~ likelihood of spam content; and

delivering the incoming e-mail into one or more of the directories whose assigned ranges of ~~spaminess~~ likelihood of spam content encompasses the ~~spaminess~~ likelihood of spam content grade of the incoming e-mail.

12. (New) The method as set forth in claim 1 further comprising:

retrieving stored electronic mail messages;

reclassifying the stored electronic mail messages according to the grading of the incoming electronic mail messages, wherein said stored electronic mail messages and the incoming electronic mail messages contain a common criterion used in the grading; and

reassigning the stored electronic mail messages to another electronic mail directory based upon the reclassification.

13. (New) The method as set forth in claim 12 further comprising prompting the user before the stored electronic mail messages are reassigned.

14. (New) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the number of directories is specified by the user.

15. (New) The method as set forth in claim 1 further comprising assigning a label to each directory, said label comprising a user-friendly identifier.

16. (New) The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the user-friendly identifier is selected from a group consisting of: colors, names, tasks, content, and spam levels.

17. (New) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the ranges are assigned by the user.